

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XX

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1898

No. 10

## Editorial

### Sample Tracts

A few weeks ago announcement was made that no more sample packages of tracts could be supplied for the present. The several missing numbers have since been replaced and we can now furnish these packages same as before, except two numbers which will remain out of print, for a time at least. However, others have been added, so that the package at ten cents is as cheap for the money as ever. We shall be glad to fill orders for these packages at the old price, ten cents. We have already sold above five hundred of them.

### The Decay of the Sunday School

Edward Bok, in the Ladies' Home Journal, gives a whole page editorially on the "Decay of the Sunday School." The criticism he makes is well founded, and the management of the average Sunday School deserves the scoring it gets at the hands of Mr. Bok. Not only does he point out the failure of the present system in its results, but suggests a remedy. Yet we can not but call attention to the fact that the title, "The Decay of the Sunday School," is not well chosen. It implies that a better and a more useful system or management once existed, and that it is dying out. This we do not believe. The Sunday school of to-day is productive of more good than at any other period in the history of that institution. The management is better, teachers are better qualified, superintendents more wisely chosen, and the results are more encouraging. The institution is not "decaying," it is growing in usefulness. It is far from being what it ought to be and what it might be, but we insist on it that it is not in a state of "decay" but in process of growth.

### Lowly Service

There is beauty in service however lowly such service may be. Whatever helps a human life is a service in which angels delight and desire to look into. The Koran tells of the sending to earth of Gabriel to keep Solomon from sins, and at the same time to help a little toiling ant to get home with its burden. It is a beautiful thought, the thought that service rendered and kindness shown and help given, even to the dumb portion of God's creation, is an angelic service. No service that helps a human life is a small service nor one that is to be despised however menial it may appear. God does

not measure human life and actions as we measure them. With him no ministry even to the least in his kingdom can be considered small. Giving bread to the humblest of God's poor is an angelic service that has the promise of richest reward.

### Ashland College

The few churches which have not yet sent in their apportionment should do so at once that a speedy settlement can be made. This is very important, brethren, and we trust the matter will have your immediate attention. Again and again we have called attention to the importance of prompt action as delay only increases the indebtedness. Interest is accumulating, as the money thus far paid in can not be applied on the debt until the full amount is raised. It will be a great day for the Brethren church when the debt is wiped out, and if you have her interest at heart as we believe you have, let there be a practical demonstration of the fact in the immediate payment of your apportionment.

### The Quarterlies Ready

By the time this paper reaches our readers the Quarterlies for the second quarter 1898, will be ready and all orders will be filled promptly as rapidly as they are received. Do not wait till the last moment to send in your order, but send it now and make sure that your helps are on hand when the last Sabbath in the quarter comes. Sometimes second class matter is delayed in carriage, especially so when the mails are crowded with letters. In such cases packages are thrown back until letters are out of the way.

### Call for Teacher's Quarterly

There have been several inquiries from new schools for a teacher's edition of our Quarterly. These inquiries come from new schools, or schools which have never used our literature. This is at least partial evidence that those who have used our helps find them sufficient for both scholar and teacher. The Quarterly devotes six pages to suggestions in preparing the lesson, and supplies about all the help the faithful teacher needs, besides, of course, the Bible, which must be his first and best help, and the Holy Spirit to guide him in the application of the lesson. This plan has the advantage of giving the scholar the same helps as the teacher. Those desiring more extensive helps on the lesson will find the comments and suggestions in the EVANGELIST each week very profitable if properly used. The busy teacher does not

want too many helps, for we are persuaded that too many or too extensive helps are a greater hindrance to his success than too few. With too many helps to go over his attention may be diverted from the Bible, and this would be a sad mistake. What the teacher needs is a guide, a something that will suggest to him *how* to prepare the lesson, then let him apply himself to its preparation.

### Not the Kind Desired

Unity in a good cause is always desirable. Christ prayed for unity in his church, that all might be one as he and the Father are one. The spirit of unity, and goodfellowship, and Christian love, is earnestly to be desired both in the church and in the Sunday school. But some times there is a unanimity which is that of the grave rather than that of life. A layman was once asked if his pastor and his congregation were united: "Yes, we are perfectly united. We are frozen together," he replied. That is the state of altogether too many churches. What we need is not the unity that comes by frost, but that which comes by the fire of love and the Holy Spirit. To pass a resolution without a "dissenting voice," or to pass it unanimously, is not in itself a thing over which to glory. There may be the unanimity of death, and not enough life left to oppose anything good or bad. When you report your church as in perfect peace and harmony be sure that it is not the peace of the frozen lake or that of the dead sea, but that of the majestic river. "Peace shall flow as a river, and righteousness as the waves of the sea."

### Not a Punishment but a Pleasure

Time was when children were made to commit Bible verses as a punishment for bad behavior or negligence in the matter of some duty. This is a practice that should receive no favor at our hands. It is an outrage that the study of God's Word should be made a punishment. It was this practice that contributed its share to the rearing of a generation of Bible haters. It made the book odious to the children, and even in after years, for them, the Bible carried with it associations that were decidedly disagreeable. Children should be taught that the reading of God's Word is a joy, a pleasure, a privilege, and not a punishment. Do not the little ones love to talk to papa and mamma? Unless there is something seriously wrong in domestic government, the child finds a peculiar pleasure in a talk with papa. So let